1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

343 417 626 to ſuffocate any one who is not inured to bear it: but the natives find no difficulty in going out or in; and though they can only fix their toes on the ſteps of the ladder, they mount like ſquirrels; nor do the women heſitate to go through this ſmoke with their children upon their ſhoulders; though there is another opening through which the women are allowed to paſs; but if any man ſhould pretend to do the ſame he would be 342 laughed at. The *Kamtſchadales* live in theſe huts all the winter, after which they go out into others which they call balagans: theſe ſerve them not only to live in during the ſummer, but alſo for magazines. They are made in the following manner: Nine pillars, about two fathom long or more, are fixed in the ground, and bound together with balks laid over them, which they cover with rods, and over all lay graſs, faſtening ſpars and a round ſharp roof at top, which they cover with bramble, and thatch with graſs. They faſten the lower ends of the ſpars to the balks with ropes and thongs, and have a door on each ſide one directly oppoſite to the other.

342 251 They have ſuch balagans, not only round their winter habitaions, but alſo in thoſe places where they lay up their food in ſummer; and they are certainly very convenient in this country on account of the frequent rains, which would ſurely ſpoil all their fiſh if it was not preſerved in ſuch places; beſides, when they return from fiſhing and hunting in the harveſt, they leave their dry fiſh here, 'till they can fetch it in the winter; and this without any guard only taking away the ladders. If theſe buildings were not ſo high the wild beaſts would undoubtedly plunder them; for notwithſtanding all their precaution, the bears ſometimes climb up and force their way into their magazines, eſpecially in the harveſt when the fiſh and berries begin to grow 343 ſcarce. In the ſummer, when they go a hunting, they have, beſides their balagans, huts made of graſs, in which they dreſs their

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

their victuals and clean their fiſh in bad weather; and the Coſſacks boil their ſalt from ſea water in them. The villages, which are well inhabited, having their common huts ſurrounded with theſe balagans, make a very agreeable appearance at a diſtance.

The ſouthern *Kamtſchadales* commonly build their villages in thick woods, and other places which are naturally ſtrong, not leſs than twenty verſts from the ſea; and their ſummer habitations are near the mouths of their rivers; but thoſe who live upon the *Penſchinſka* ſea and the Eaſtern Ocean build their villages very near the ſhore.

They look upon that river near which their village is ſituated, as the inheritance of their tribe; and if one or two families at any time deſire to live ſeparate from their native village, they build themſelves huts upon the ſame river, or ſome branch that falls into it; from which it is natural to imagine, that the inhabitants of every village have originally ſprung from the ſame father; and the *Kamtſchadales* themſelves ſay, that *Kut*, whom they ſometimes call God, and ſometimes their firſt father, lived two years upon each river, and left the children that river, on which they were born, for their proper inheritance; and though formerly the *Kamtſchadales* uſed only to hunt and fiſh upon their own rivers, they now wander above 200 verſts to kill the ſea animals upon the *Awatſcha*, or the *Kurilſkaya Lopatka*.

CHAP.

000 it ſeemed ſufficiently ſheltered, the wind penetrated on every ſide. M. Kaſloff had recourſe to the bath, which quickly reſtored him; but not daring to follow his example, I was obliged to wait the arrival of our baggage. The damp had penetrated to ſuch a degree that I ſhivered during the whole night.

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The next day I made a trial of theſe baths, and can ſay that none ever afforded me ſo much pleaſure or ſo much benefit. But before I proceed, I muſt deſcribe the ſource of theſe hot waters, and the building conſtructed for bathing.

They are two werſts to the north of the oſtrog, and about a hundred yards from the bank of the Bolchaia-reka, which it is neceſſary to croſs a ſecond time in order to arrive at the baths, on account of the elbow which the river deſcribes below the village. A thick and

[Natchikin (Nachiki?)--Analyst]

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

133 and continual vapour aſcends from theſe
515 waters, which fall in a rapid caſcade from a
312 rather ſteep declivity, three hundred yards
343 from the place where the baths are erected. In their fall, which is in a direction eaſt and weſt, they form a ſmall ſtream of a foot and half deep, and ſix or ſeven feet wide. At a little diſtance from the Bolchaia-reka, this ſtream is met by another, with which it pours itſelf into this river. At their conflux, which is about eight or nine hundred yards from the ſource, the water is ſo hot that it is not poſſible to keep the hand in it for half a minute.

M. Kaſloff has been careful to erect his building on the moſt convenient ſpot, and where the temperature of the water is moſt moderate. It is conſtructed of wood, in the middle of a ſtream, and is in the proportion of ſixteen feet long by eight wide. It is divided into two apartments, each of ſix

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7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

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or ſeven feet ſquare, and as many high: the one which is neareſt to the ſide of the ſpring, and under which the water is conſequently warmer, is appropriated for bathing; the other ſerves for a dreſſing-room; and for this purpoſe there are wide benches above the level of the water; in the middle alſo a certain ſpace is left to waſh if we be diſpoſed. There is one circumſtance that renders theſe baths very agreeable, the warmth of the water communicates itſelf ſufficiently to the dreſſing-room to prevent us from catching cold; and it penetrates the body to ſuch a degree, as to be felt even for the ſpace of an hour or two after we have left the bath.

We lodged near theſe baths in a kind of barns, covered with thatch, and whoſe timber work conſiſted of the trunks and branches of trees. We occupied two, which had been built on purpoſe for us, and

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

361/343 from Charom. Vercknei is a very conſiderable place, compared with the oſtrogs I had hitherto ſeen. I counted more than a hundred houſes. Its ſituation is commodious, and the proſpect round it tolerably various. Beſides bordering upon the river *, it has the farther advantage of being near to woods and fields, the ſoil of which is good, and begins to be cultivated by the inhabitants. The church is built of wood; its architecture is not diſagreeable, and it is only to be wiſhed that the inſide correſponded with the external appearance. The inhabitants differ in no reſpect from thoſe of the other villages. For the firſt time I ſaw at this place a ſpecies of buildings, about the height of a balagan, that ſerve no other purpoſe than to dry fiſh. A ſerjeant had the command at Vercknei, who lives in a houſe belonging to the crown.

* The Kamtſchatka, which was not yet frozen.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

000 pretentious type, but possessed, nevertheless, of a quiet beauty so perfect in its kind that the most fastidious of critics would have sought no alteration. Below our camp the river clattered between its banks of yellowing birches towards some snow-capped mountains that distance had painted a deep violet. The village, grey, battered and weather-worn, as are all these northern hamlets, nestled at the foot of the three peculiar peaks of the eastern range of the valley. Not a human being was to be seen, and the smoke of our evening camp-fire rose like a straight blue pillar into a golden sky. Around us was a stillness that could be felt,—the wondrous silence of the North; and on the summit of the little cross above the church a crow sat motionless in the evening sun, —a speck of steely blue against the snow beyond.

132 251 343 361 Gumal, with its enormous stores of salmon, seemed, like all these Kamschatkan villages, a place of considerable size. A nearer acquaintance, however, soon dispelled the illusion, and we noticed that a large proportion of balagans seemed to be used as storehouses rather than dwellings. These buildings, which differ from the fish-sheds only in having a living-room at the top, and being consequently rather more solidly constructed, are rudely made of white poplar or birch trunks, pines being comparatively unknown in this part of the country. There are rarely more than two—at most three—tiers of fish drying beneath, for the sledge-dog is an active and ever-hungry animal, and six feet would be a dangerous height at which to suspend a salmon. The roof is high-pitched, and the thatch secured by means of light poles tied transversely across it. The entrance, a low door in the gable, is reached by a sort of ladder specially contrived for the humiliation of the unwary. It is merely a notched pole, placed loosely against the building, and not secured in any way; and the incautious European attempting the ascent is somewhat astonished to find the pole rapidly revolving, leaving him clinging back downwards 000 and discomfited. This simple arrangement, if capable of being put in action at will, might possibly be of considerable utility to those